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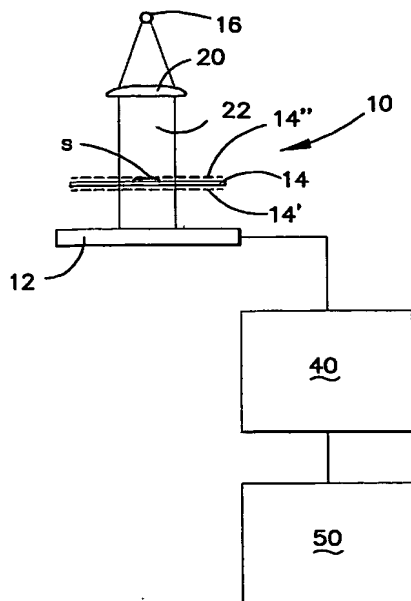
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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DETERMINING THE AREA OR CONFLUENCY OF A SAMPLE



(57) Abstract: The area or confluency of a sample is determined by obtaining quantitative phase data relating to the sample and background surrounding the sample. The boundary of the sample is determined from the quantitative phase data by forming a histogram of phase data measurements and taking the derivative of the histogram to thereby determine the point of maximum slope. The line of best fit on the derivative is used to obtain a data value applicable to the boundary so that data values either above or below the determined data value are deemed within the sample.



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